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THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

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General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

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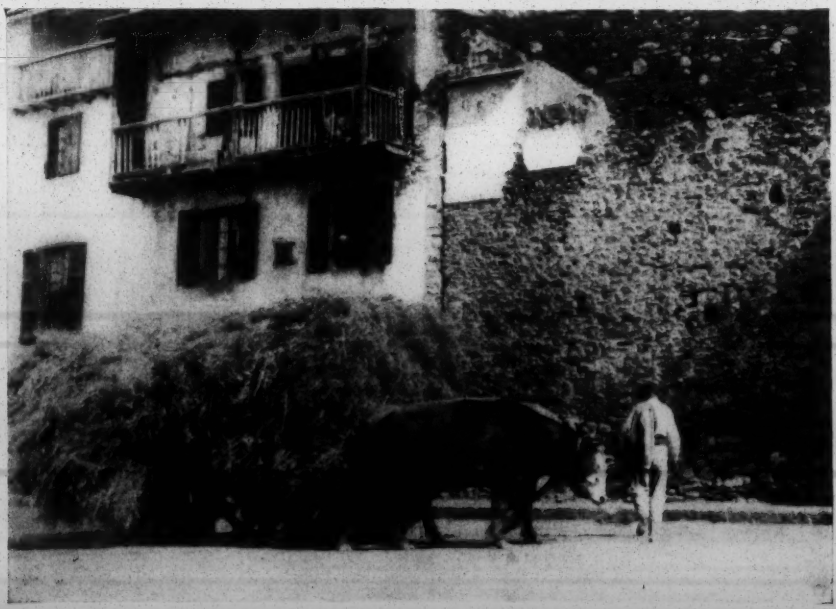

Photograph by Herbert Corey. © National Geographic Society.

A BUSY SCENE AT LLIVIA, THE "SPANISH TOWN IN FRANCE," WHICH IS A "PORT OF ENTRY" FOR ANDORRA'S SMUGGLING ACTIVITIES (See Bulletin No. 5)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE BULLETIN

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When Dust Is a Human Benefactor

THE falling of a thick coating of dust upon a steamer in the Yellow Sea and the attendant darkening of the atmosphere so that sailing was difficult recently attracted wide attention. But such is not an uncommon occurrence in that part of the world, or even in mid-ocean.

Besides the dust fall on the ocean, which on the face of it seems a joke, there are sometimes yellow rains in the Yukon and red snows in Greenland and other Arctic and Alpine regions.

Vegetable Growths Redden Snow

The yellow rains, so called because the ground becomes covered with a peculiar fine, yellow deposit, are usually found to be caused by the pollen of pine trees, growing miles and miles distant, which is caught up by the winds and carried until their fury has abated, and then dropped. The "red snow" seen in the Arctic is made by a wind-placed deposit of the motile algae, Chlamydomonas, in the nuclei of which are red pigment spots. Other kinds of algae sometimes reproduce in such numbers that they form the greenish deposits seen in fresh water.

We are all more or less familiar with the popular fallacy that "it rains tadpoles." Of course, the thinking man who knows that when the sun cannot vaporize the salt in the ocean and carry it into the clouds, it would be impossible for it to pick up a tadpole in any state of its evolution and hold it floating above us long enough for it to grow legs and lose its tail. The appearance of small toads after a rain in summer is very easily explained, as they must keep to damp, cool places when they first come from the water and the rain and consequent dampness of the earth and atmosphere give them more latitude for their adventures than they possessed before the shower.

Beautiful Sunsets Due to Dust Particles

Dust, however, that bane of the housekeeper and annoyance to the automobile tourist, plays a vital part in our lives. Though it sometimes seems to suffocate us, without it we could have no rain, as the vapor would not condense; and without its power of refraction our daylight would not be so bright, and the coloring of our sunsets would be almost entirely lost.

The loess of northern China, a fine yellow powder brought by the winds from the desert regions beyond and deposited in places several hundred feet in thickness has been tilled for thousands of years, without any artificial fertilization and without signs of exhaustion. Beds of volcanic dust are to be found in Kansas and Nebraska today, in some places as much as 30 feet in thickness, though there were no volcanoes in the past and there is none at present within hundreds of miles of the deposits. The wind is the culprit or benefactor.

"Steamers out in the middle of the Atlantic often have their sails reddened with dust blown from the Sahara, and sometimes the rains of southern Europe are colored by dust from the same source. In 1901 four days of March winds are believed to have spread over Central Europe about two million tons of Sahara dust, most of it falling south of the Alps, but some of it being carried as far as the Baltic Sea.

UMI

Photograph by Edwin R. Fraser. © National Geographic Society.

CUTTING BANANAS IN COSTA RICA (See Bulletin No. 3)

The top of the tree is pulled down with a pole and the stem cut with a large, heavy knife called a machete. Note the flower at the end of the bunch of bananas.

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Getting a "Map-Eye" View of South America

One must study much of his geography country by country and city by city. Yet a complete diet of piecemeal geography may leave many a missing link in one's mental picture. National boundaries frequently are artificial by every gauge of human, racial, and physical geography. They also are subject to change.

To give its members a "continent's-eye view" of the world the National Geographic Society has been issuing a series of maps. The descriptions published in the National Geographic Magazine with these maps have been widely commended for their value to students of geography, history and world relations. Herewith is that in connection with The Society's New Map of South America:

THE map of South America portrays a continent which has many characteristics peculiar to itself. It is the most southerly of all the continents. South America extends some 1,200 miles nearer to the South Pole than any other continent.

This continent has twice the area of Europe, yet it has less than two-thirds the combined population of France and Italy. Twice as large as the United States, including Alaska, it has a population only a little more than half as great. In general outline it is not unlike Africa, but it is more symmetrical.

Brazil Reaches Out to Guinea

The three continents of the Southern Hemisphere are similar in their unindented coast-lines, and the headlands of Brazil seem to reach out as if to join hands across the sea with the corresponding headlands of Guinea.

The vast basins of the Amazon, the Rio de la Plata, and the Orinoco are in many parts so low-lying as to be swampy, and in spite of the tremendous amount of water they carry off, the currents are sluggish; yet so towering and so extensive are the Andes Mountains that if all the highlands were plowed down and all the lowlands were filled up, the continent would be a plateau 1,312 feet above sea level, and 820 feet of this would be represented by the material that constitutes the Andes.

South America is distinguished among all the continents for the absence of clearly defined watersheds between its great river basins. From the Orinoco delta to the Rio de la Plata estuary there is almost a continuous overlapping of these basins. In southern Venezuela, where that country thrusts a political peninsula into northern Brazil, below the town of Esmeralda, the waters of the upper Orinoco suddenly decide to part company, some of them reaching the Amazon and the sea through the Brazos Casiquiare and the others forcing their way to the lower Orinoco over the rapids of the eroded mountain barriers at Maipures and Atures.

A "Bird's Wing" Watershed

Although the communications between the Amazon and the Rio de la Plata basins are not so marked as those between the Amazon and the Orinoco basins, there are numerous places where the flip of a bird's wing, the direction of the wind, the abundance of local rains, the formation of a sand-bar, or the slip of a bit of land may determine the destiny of a drop of water, whether it shall flow past Pará or Buenos Aires.

In several places, canals five miles long would give free communication by inland waterways between the Atlantic and the Pacific.

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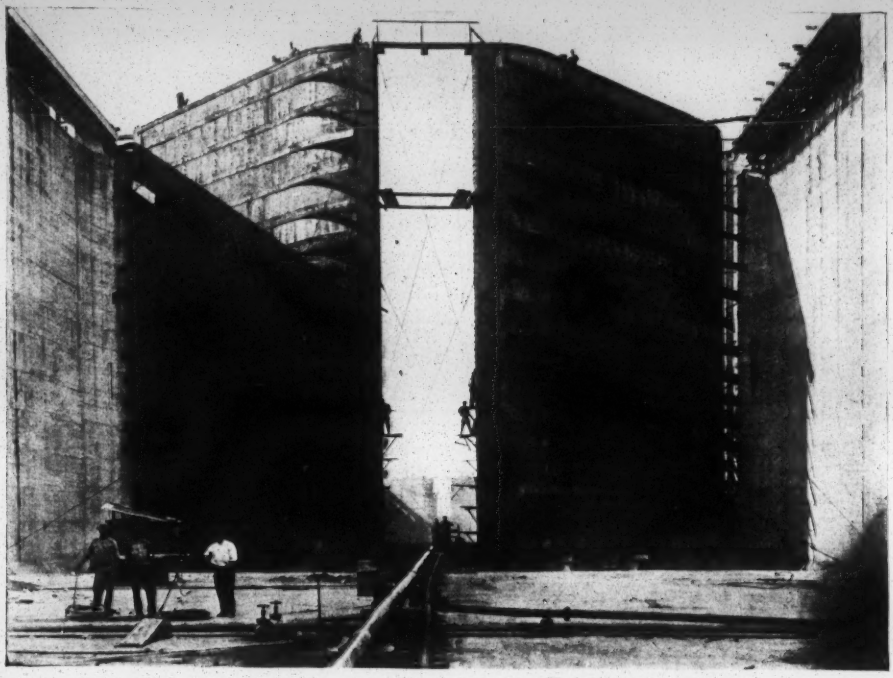
Wind-blown dust also gives rise to some interesting phenomena. When dust falls on glaciers or deposits of snow near the mountain tops every dust particle melts its way through the ice, sometimes several inches in depth, and if there are a great many of these "dust-wells" the mountain-climber must watch his step. Use was made of this knowledge by engineers in melting snows preliminary to the building of the New Bergen Railway in southern Norway.

No Mountain Peak Above "Dust Zone"

It is probable that no mountain top is high enough above the earth to be entirely free from some dust, especially that thrown out during volcanic eruptions. In a great explosion, such as that of Krakatoa, in 1883, dust is shot into the upper atmosphere rather than picked up by it. Dust particles from Krakatoa traveled around the world, some of them completing their first trip in fifteen days. Before this giant shook the world with its mighty upheaving we were ignorant of the winds that prevailed at over ten miles above the earth's surface. The dust so colored these upper reaches that scientists were able to trace upper wind movements, to record them upon their charts, and to tell us that mighty air streams are flowing twenty miles above our heads.

Long before meteorologists realized the part played by the dust in the upper atmosphere following volcanic explosions, they recorded as phenomenal and inexplicable certain dense dry fogs that neither abundant rains nor fierce winds drove away. Today we can easily explain them because we know that the "fog" was really dust in the atmosphere high above the rain and wind clouds.

Bulletin No. 1, February 27, 1922.



Photograph and copyright by Edwin H. Tracy.

LOCK GATES OF THE PANAMA CANAL, WHICH HAS DONE MUCH TO AUGMENT COMMERCE OF SOUTH AMERICA **(See Bulletin No. 2)**

There are 46 of these gates, each having two leaves, and their total weight is 58,000 tons. They vary in size from 47 to 82 feet in height and it took six million rivets to put them together.

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Costa Rica: Country of Prosperous "Little Landers"

RECENTLY Costa Rica was in the public eye because of a boundary controversy with Panama, and also because of its refusal to join the new Republic of Central America.

Costa Rica constitutes one of the best demonstrations to be found among the republics of the New World that a country's development may be strikingly affected by geography and economics. Most of the other Latin American countries were built up on the basis of the labor of large numbers of natives, and with this assistance they have utilized considerable areas. Costa Rica has had to depend since colonial times largely on the labor of its colonists of European descent, and the development of the country has been in a restricted territory.

In most of the other Latin American countries there has been a marked admixture of the blood of the Spanish settlers with that of the native Indians, but since the few Indians in the part of Costa Rica settled by the Spaniards were practically exterminated at an early date, the population of that Republic has remained predominantly European.

Borderlands Practically Deserted

Because of these fundamental economic differences, and because also of geographical isolation for a long period, Costa Rica differs in many ways from its neighbors. The republic is more than twice the size of Belgium and approximately equal in area to West Virginia, but practically the government is that of the people concentrated on a mountain-fringed plateau in the center of the country, not much over 50 miles square.

The great majority of the half million inhabitants live on this small plateau. Next in importance are the sections which, added to this central area, would make a narrow band across the country from Atlantic to Pacific. Even this belt of greatest population constitutes hardly a quarter of the area of Costa Rica. The regions bordering Nicaragua on the northwest and Panama on the southeast are almost uninhabited except for the few Indians living there.

Land of Perpetual Spring

The central plateau which is the heart of Costa Rica has a rich soil and a climate described as that of perpetual spring. It is from 3,000 to 4,000 feet above sea level. When the early settlers established themselves in this promising country they could not live in cities and receive the tribute of many workers, but found it necessary to do their own work. Their situation was not unlike that of the North American pioneers of the Middle West. As a result the Costa Ricans acquired habits of industry that have stuck with them until today.

Costa Rica has always been a country of "little landers" as contrasted with the countries of huges estates about it. The early colonists had a most difficult time making a living in their isolated position. They were cut off from commercial intercourse with the Atlantic by the lowland jungles to the northeast, and less effectually by mountains and upland plains from the Pacific. They had no products sufficiently valuable to export even if commercial channels had been available. It was necessary to live almost wholly on their own

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The great length of the navigable reaches of the principal rivers of South America and their major tributaries more than compensates for the lack of indented coast-lines. The Mississippi, "Father of Waters," and its tributaries, have seventeen thousand miles of navigable waters, the major portion exceedingly shallow. The Amazon and its tributaries have twice as many miles and several times as many capable of accommodating ocean-going steamers, which ascend 2,300 miles to Iquitos, in the territory in dispute between Peru and Ecuador. Vessels of 14-foot draft can ascend nearly 500 miles beyond this point.

Longest Inland Waterways

It is as if one could go in a ship of fourteen feet draft from New York to Salt Lake City by way of Chicago and Cheyenne. Such a navigable river makes the projected Lakes-to-the-Gulf "Fourteen-feet-through-the-Valley" waterway seem insignificant in comparison.

In 1899 the United States gunboat Wilmington went up the Amazon to Iquitos. If the Mississippi were as long and deep, such a warship might sail without encountering a single bar from the Gulf of Mexico to Hudson Bay.

The anchors shown on the map beside the various rivers of the continent indicate the head of steam navigation on each major stream, illustrating that South America possesses the finest system of natural inland waterways in the world.

In the number of its conflicting boundary claims, political South America suggests the overlapping territorial disputes in Europe during the Peace Conference.

Vast Area Involved in Rival Claims

Colombia and Venezuela have rival claims to some 40,000 square miles; Colombia and Peru both claim an even larger area; Bolivia and Paraguay contend for a vast extent of territory in the Chaco region; Chile and Peru have a Silesia of their own in the valuable nitrate lands, which have been rocks of contention for many years, and Argentina and Chile both claim a number of islands above Cape Horn. All these disputed areas are adequately shown in colors on the map. Argentina also disputes Great Britain's possession of the Falkland Islands, which her maps designate as the Malvina Archipelago.

South America is preeminently the home of self-governing republics—ten of them, ranging in size from Brazil, which is larger than the United States, exclusive of Alaska, to Uraguay, which is not quite equal in area to Nebraska. There are only three colonial possessions of modest territorial extent on the continent, the Guianas—British, Dutch, and French.

Three inset maps will prove of fascinating interest to the lay reader as well as to the student. The great Andean ranges, with their snow-capped peaks and the vast valleys of the three principal river basins are strikingly presented in the Physical Map. The Mean Annual Temperature Map will enable one to fix definitely in his mind the comparative climates in the two continents of the Western Hemisphere, remembering that the sudden sweep northward of the temperate lines on the western coast of South America is due jointly to the high elevation of the Andean system and the chilling waters of the Humboldt Current, which flows northward from the Antarctic, exercising an influence exactly opposite to that of our own Gulf Stream.

Wealth in Natural Resources

South America's wealth in natural resources is clearly presented in the Products Map, which shows the vast extent of the rubber forests of the Amazon basin, the regions from which Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, Colombia, and Venezula draw their valuable exports of cattle, hides, mutton and wool; the nitrate lands of Chile and Peru, the rich coffee, sugar, and cocoa plantations of Brazil, the Guianas, Venezuela, and Colombia, and the silver, copper, gold, iron, and tin deposits of the several republics.

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How United States and Japan Entered a League of Flowers

MUCH was heard during the conference just concluded in Washington about the Anglo-Japanese Alliance; but did you know of a far older American-Japanese alliance—an alliance that was not political at all, but floral?

There is an interesting story connected with the presentation to this country by Japan of the famous cherry trees planted in Potomac Park, Washington, D. C., which led to the gift, in return, of American dogwoods, now growing in Tokyo.

Even Delicate Flowers Thrived

Although scattered here and there in America there were a few kinds of Japanese flowering cherry trees, it was not until 1906, when David Fairchild imported a large collection of them and planted them among the pines and cedars of his place "In the Woods" in Maryland, that it was evident how admirably even the most delicate kinds would grow and blossom here in America. They were so successful and so charming that in 1907 he brought in two shipments, one of which he gave to the schools of Washington, D. C., and trees of the other were planted along Connecticut Avenue in Chevy Chase, Maryland.

Mr. Fairchild recounts the history of this exchange of flowers as follows:

"Scottish heather and Irish shamrock are no more closely intertwined with the national life of the Scotch and Irish than is the cherry blossom with the life of the Japanese. It is more than a matter of passing interest, therefore, that a Japanese gentleman, Dr. Jokichi Takamine, who has spent a large part of his life in America, should have made it possible for the mayor of his native city to give to the country of his adoption thousands of the trees which represent the spirit of his people.

Cherry Blossom Time Halts Legislature

"And now with the first warm winds of every spring, the pink and white blossoms of thousands of flowering cherry trees stand out against the marble whiteness of the monuments to Washington and Lincoln in the Speedway Park of Washington. For miles along the Speedway these trees are scattered, growing each year more beautiful and attracting more and more visitors. What a satisfaction it must be to Dr. Takamine to realize that throughout America there is a growing love and appreciation of this national flower of Japan and know that he has played so large a part in bringing this about. Was it in his mind that they might help the people of this country to understand how deeply there lies in the Japanese character a love for the beautiful? No one walking beneath these lovely flowering trees can fail to be impressed when he knows that they appeal so strongly to a whole people, that each spring all business stops and even the legislature adjourns in order that every one may have leisure to enjoy them.

"The idea of a field of cherries on the Speedway originated one afternoon during a visit to the cherry trees at 'In the Woods' of Miss E. R. Scidmore, a distinguished writer and interpreter of the Japanese, and it is through arrangements made by her with Mrs. Taft, who was then in the White House, the Mayor of Tokyo and Dr. Takamine, that three miles of the Speedway are planted with flowering cherry trees.

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products. They became poverty-stricken; and the name Costa Rica, which means "Rich Coast," came to be regarded as a joke.

The introduction of coffee early in the nineteenth century had much to do with bettering the country's prosperity. A cart road from the plateau to a Pacific port was constructed in 1846 and coffee exports grew steadily. The Central Plateau became more and more densely populated and now almost every square foot of it is devoted to small farms. A high percentage of Costa Ricans are land owners. Naturally, this has made for comparative stability in government, and Costa Rica has had fewer civil wars than most of the Central American governments; but it has not been altogether free from military coups.

Has More Teachers Than Soldiers

In the last thirty years especially Costa Rica has shown great development. The poverty-stricken community of early days has been transformed into one of great prosperity. A great banana industry has sprung up in the hot, moist Atlantic lowlands. None of the fruit was exported a quarter century ago; now more than ten million bunches are sent out each year, mostly to the United States.

But it is of the social advance that has been made along with the coming of prosperity that Costa Rica has the best right to be proud. Isolation and poverty had imposed a high rate of illiteracy a century ago. Now illiterate persons are difficult to find, except among the few semi-civilized natives of the outlying regions. Newspapers go into practically every home in the plateau. While Costa Rica has a standing army it is small, and Costa Ricans claim that in recent years they have had more school teachers than soldiers.

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THE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD'S SMALLEST NATION AND THE WORLD'S OLDEST STATE
(See Bulletin No. 5).

The peasant women of San Marino followed their peaceful pursuits even while the clamor of war resounded all around their miniature Republic.

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Lilliput Nations of Europe

WHICH is the smallest country in the world?

That depends upon the angle from which you view the question. There are small principalities tucked under the wings of sheltering governments, republics which owe part of their suzerainty to a bishop, and grand-duchies.

Monaco, with its eight square miles of territory, perched three hundred feet above the Mediterranean in the heart of the Riviera, is the smallest principality. It is the best known and the most visited, for it contains the world-noted lure of Monte Carlo.

From Hercules to Fortuna

The little country has a checkered and interesting history. Its beginning dates to the days of Hercules, almost 2,000 years before the birth of Christ. How paradoxical that this hero, who vanquished well-nigh insurmountable obstacles by sheer physical labor, should have been even the traditional founder of a state whose whole revenue is obtained from games of chance!

Theodoric the Great seems to have been the only one of the great European conquerors who gave the little country any respite from wars which continuously harassed it. And his charm as a man may have been the influence which gave the people he conquered their tolerance for those who risk their all on a gamble, for it is said of him that he had the most delightful manners at dice. "If Theodoric loses, he laughs; he is modest and reticent if he wins!"

Modern figures show that the industries and trade of Monaco are unimportant in comparison to its revenues from the gaming tables. During 1913 there were nearly two million visitors in the principality for its 23,000 population to take care of.

Until 1911 the Prince of the country was an absolute ruler, but in that year he gave his subjects a Constitution which provides for a National Council elected by the people.

San Marino Smallest Republic

Monaco has a close second in diminutiveness, and a rival in the claim of age, in the independent Republic of San Marino, which is the smallest republic in the world. Surrounded by Italy, which respects its autonomy, this Republic rears its thirty-eight square miles of territory to a point 2,500 feet above sea-level. Its founder, San Marino, came from Arbe in the fourth century to aid the oppressed Christians build the stone walls of the city of Rimini. Born of his desire for peace, solitude and simplicity of living, these qualities have become thoroughly inculcated in its national character and for generations have been reflected in its history. The venerable saint taught his people that war should be resorted to only for self-defense.

San Marino is governed by a Great Council of sixty members who are elected by popular vote. Two of these members are appointed every six months to act as Regents, and in such capacity exercise the executive power. So tranquil is the little republic that it scarcely needs a police force—an atmosphere in contrast to that created by the frenzied and feverish players who sit at the tables in Monaco.

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First Shipment Ill-fated

"The first shipment was an ill-fated one, for the 2,000 large trees which composed it were found to be so badly infested with injurious insects which were new to America that they could not be disinfected and had to be burned. The incident was an embarrassing one. Refusing to misinterpret the motive of the destruction of the trees, the then Mayor of Tokyo and his council and Dr. Takamine, advising with the scientific plant men of their country, decided to repeat the shipment, sending plants so free from insects and diseases as to elicit the admiration of American plant experts. This shipment arrived in the spring of 1912 and with simple ceremonies, in which Mrs. Taft, the Japanese Minister, and a few others took part, the first tree was planted on the Speedway.

"Three years later, Mr. Kuwashima, a friend of Count Okuma's, who was spending the winter in Washington, was shown for the first time by Mr. Swingle and me photographs of the American dogwood, and it was then arranged that a shipment of the American dogwood should be made to Japan and trees of it be planted in Tokyo and little dogwood trees be distributed in the schools. Hundreds of plants and several pounds of seeds were sent him, and the Mayor of Tokyo, who sent the cherries to America, had the dogwood trees planted with great care in the city park there. Thousands of seedling American dogwoods were later sent out to the schools of Japan.

Dogwoods Also Growing Well

"Photographs showing how well the cherry trees are growing in Washington and the dogwoods in Tokyo have already been exchanged. Each spring as the school children of America admire the cherry blossom trees from Japan, the school children of Japan will look in wonder at the strange but beautiful dogwoods of America.

"No doubt they will suppose that to American children the dogwood means quite as much as their own cherry trees mean to them. Let us hope that this will encourage the children of Japan to even greater interest in their lovely cherry trees and stimulate the children of America to plant our beautiful dogwoods in their dooryards. This would help our children to understand and respect the children of Japan."

Bulletin No. 4, February 27, 1922.

"For The Increase and Diffusion of Geographic Knowledge"

IF YOU have been to Washington you have seen the beautiful buildings at Sixteenth and M Streets—the Administration Offices and the Library, which constitute the home of the National Geographic Society.

The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.

The Society has *increased* geographic knowledge in many notable ways. It sent an expedition to the world's largest volcano, Mt. Katmai, in Alaska, which led to the discovery and subsequent explorations by The Society of the Valley of Ten Thousand Smokes, which reminds one of a million locomotives puffing out rainbows of steam.

Previously, The Society sent a series of expeditions to Peru to look for traces of the Inca race, and there found a New World Babylon, Machu Picchu, with its marvelous gardens, probable birthplace of the potato.

The finest of the giant California Sequoia trees, oldest and biggest living things, were saved from the sawmill by contributions of The Society and its friends, and The Society helped make possible the finding of the North Pole by support given Admiral Peary's voyage.

At present The Society is conducting extensive explorations among the giant apartment houses of New Mexico, abandoned long before Columbus came, by some unknown race. Finding out about this mysterious people has all the fascination of a detective story.

In the *diffusion* of geographic information, The Society's organ is the National Geographic Magazine, which not only is read in the 700,000 homes of its members but also is used in many thousands of schools because of its beautiful and instructive pictures and its readable and reliable articles.

Realizing its responsibility among the youth, The Society has established certain means of diffusing geographic information in the schools, of which the *Geographic News Bulletin* is one, and a series of loose-leaf picture sheets known as the *Pictorial Geography* is another.

Its book publications, such as "Scenes from Every Land," "The Book of Birds" and "Wild Animals of North America" are widely used in schools, and its beautiful panoramas and new maps, which go to members with their National Geographic Magazine, have been ordered for framing by many thousands of schools.

Where Smuggling Was a National Industry

A Lilliput republic under the joint suzerainty of France and the Spanish Bishop of Urgel is Andorra. Its 191 square miles of valley, almost ten thousand feet above the level of the sea, are tucked away in the heart of the Pyrenees Mountains. It is governed by a council of twenty-four members elected by the heads of families in its six parishes. This council nominates a First Syndicate, which presides over its meetings and forms the country's executive department.

It is said that this little portion of Spain which is set down in the midst of French territory winks an eye at smuggling. In fact, it is claimed that during the recent war its chief occupation was getting things across the border into France without duty. The inhabitants discussed the practice as freely as they would the weather. But when it is advisable for an Andorran to keep his own counsel he can do it, for a proverb in the Pyrenees is: "Tell a thing to an Andorran and it is lost."

A State the Size of the District of Columbia

Another principality that jumped into public attention during the World War was Liechtenstein, whose sixty-five square miles of territory are surrounded by Switzerland and Austria. It declared its complete independence from the latter in November, 1918. This little country, in the midst of a war-torn Europe, is peacefully inclined. It has not had an army since 1886.

There are two other diminutive political entities in Europe which still have a place on the map—the Grand-duchy of Luxemburg, with its 999 square miles of territory between Belgium, France, and the Allied Zone of Occupation on the Rhine, and Turkey-in-Europe, which is now nothing more than the environs to the west of Constantinople.

Bulletin No. 5, February 27, 1922.

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HOW A TOWER WAS HURLED FOR MANY YARDS ONTO A RAILROAD TRACK BY A COSTA RICA EARTHQUAKE (See Bulletin No. 3).